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Emperour of rome / and martyren the Iuge whom we
praye and beseeche to be our aduocate vnto almyghty
god that by her meritis he bryngge vs after this shou-
te and transitory lifte to his glorie perdurable.

¶ Here endeth the lyfe of saynt Barbara
Inprinted in London by me Julyn
Rocary. dwellynge in Poules chirche
parde at the weste doore besyde my lord
of londons palayse / at the sygne of the
thr kynges ¶ Anno post virginem
partum. M. ccccc. xviij.



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The lyfe of saynt Erasmus.



The holy mā
saynt Eras-
mus was of noble/
t of grece kynde/
t he was not onely
gentyll by his byrth
but also in dedes ad
cōdiciōs. In þ time

that Dyclespanus the Emperour
reynged whiche was a grece yle-
cour of crystē people. Who came th
is holy mā saynt Erasm⁹ in þ lode
of cōpanyē/ whiche was vnder þ
uryldyccyō of þ said Dyclelian⁹
t therer this holy mā preached to the
people the worde of god/ t taught to
ihē the crysten earth/ t he bapctysed

them in the name of the fader the sone/ t
the holy ghoost. Then was thys holy mā
an chosen/ and made byshop of all the

A.I.

londe of campanyen / & preached ad thaughte þ people how
they sholde serue god and loue hym & auoyde synne. Then
it came to þ knowledge of chēmperour that saynt Erasmus
had conuerted all the lende of Campanyen in to his byleue
and to his god that he called Ihesu Cryste that was borne
of a pure vrgyn that hyght Marye. Then was this Em-
peroure sore troubled. and sente forth his knigthes for this
holy mā saynt Erasmus / and commaūded them that they
sholde constraine hym to forſake his god þ he called Ihesu
criste / and þf he wolde not þ do / than they sholde turmente
hym with the gretest payne that they coude ymagen So it
happed that they founde this holy man & they bounde him
as though he had ben a cheſe or a mankeller and broughte
hym before the Juge & with a fell & a spytfull mode the Ju-
ge to hym sayd. Thou rude and vnbleuyngē mā / Wherfo-
re dooſt thou wiſh thy deuyllisſe werke for to couerte all
the people frome theyr byleue to thy byleue / and to thy god
Wherfoſe byleuest thou not vpō the ſame god that Dyocle-
ſapnus & we all byleue vpon. I tell the for trouthe þf thou
wyſte not forſake & denye thy god that thou nameſt Ihesu
criste & praye to the wyſe god we wyll hange the ſo horibly
that all the vaynes of thy body ſhall breke. Tho anſwered
the good saynt Erasmus mekely and loftely and ſayd. Al-
mighty god that all thyngē hath wrought heuen and hell/
and all þ therin is / hym wyll I neuer forſake for no thyngē
that can or may be done to me / for his bodely grace hath gy-
uen vnto me ſuche grace & to other his chosen frendes that
he was made man / & hath taſted and ſuffre the bytter dethe
for me ad also for all ſynners ¶ As the Juge that herde of
this holy man he ſwelled vpon hym for angre & made hym
for to be beten vpon his heed / and ſpyctynge vpon his ble-
ſed face / & besprinkled on hym wiſh felonelle / that he ſemed

as a leprous man. whan this tyrannus Judge sawe that
this good saynt Erasmus thus paciently suffred/and þ al-
waye he thanked Ihesu cryst of all. Then wente he in gre-
te crueltesse and dyde the holy man do beten so cruellly with
leden malles that all his vaynes must breke & braste of whi-
che he sayd no chynge. For he suffred it hercule thynkyng
for certes sake. ¶ Then comaundered the crull Judge that
this holy man sholde be put in to a depe pytche that was full
of snakes adders paddockes and other wormes. And after
that he dyde take brymstone & oyle & dyde seche it & dyde do
caste this holy man therin & he laye therin as he had laye in
colde water thankynge and louynge almyghty god. whan
this vnmercyfull Judge sawe þ thus no chynge hym perys-
hed/then waxed he more angry and toke soden pytche and
oyle/and dyde put it in to his holy mouthe sytynge alwaye
in þ pytche or fornesse thynkyng & louynge god. Then rose
there so grete tempest of thondrynge and lyghcnyng that
brenned the fornesse that saynt Erasmus sate on and he no
chynge greued nor hurte. But all þ other cruell people that
were therby/were brenned vp with þ same fel weder. wha
the Emperoure herde this he was so angry that for wrache
he dyde make grete chaynes and boltes of iron/ and smote
it abouce his neke and dyde hym so to be cast in þ foresaid
pytche that was full of wormes for that they sholde eate this
holyn man Erasmus. ¶ Thenne came there an aungeil fro
god and dyde lyghte all the pytche and dyde flee all the wor-
mes. And thenne was this holy Erasmus thorughe hole &
fulfilled gresely with the grace of god. And ayenst the wyl
of that euill people he came agayne oute of that pytche/ and
wente agayne and preached the worde of god so longe /till
the cruel Emperoure Droclespanius dyed. And than ano-
ther Emperoure that hysghe Maximianus/and was mo-

the worse than was Dyoc'esr anus whome this Maxi-
mianus herde of the lyfe of this holy Erasmus Thenne he
dyde hym to be taken & thā wolde haue made hym to forsa-
ke his god and his byleue. And whan he sawe that he wolde
de not chaunge his byleue. Thenne he dyde doo this good
man to be put in a panne sechynge wth rosen pycche brim
stone sede and oyle. And dyde poure it in to his mouthe for
whiche he never shryked. And whan this cruell emperoure
sawe that this Payne hurtte hym nochynge than made he a
cloke of metal as brasse or coper and made it glowyng hote
and put it vpon his holy body ad as soone as that cloke
had couched his holy body the cloke burned all the euyl and
wyked people that were there by. By whiche myracle ma-
ny folke were tourned vnto the crystē fayth. ¶ Thenne ap-
pered to him the aungell of god and comforted hym in his
trybulacyon and made hym hole and stronge and carayed
hym thens and saied to hym O saynt Erasm⁹ þ moost cho-
sen frende of god be stronge in thy trybulacyō for thoro w
thy grete martyrdome shall many men come to the eternal
lyfe therfore byleue stedfastly in god and forslake hym not
Whan saynt Erasmus herde this he went agayne gladly
and preached and conuerted moche people vnto the crysten
byleue more than euer he dyde before. And whan the emper-
our vnderstode this he pursued this holy man styll & ordery-
ned for hym a coce of yron. And he comauded þ it sholde be
made glowyng hote and so put it vpon the naked bodi of
the holy man. And whan they had founde saynt Erasmus
prechynge they toke hym and sayd þ thou wylte not forsa-
ke thy good and thy false byleue. And praye ad worshyppe
our god we wyll put on thy naked body this brennyng co-
cke. Than answered þ good saynt Erasmus & sayd Ly lorde
my god hath for me so moche done & suffred more thā I ha-

ue deserued wherfore I wyll suffre all þ I may suffre for hi
for he hath deserued it so highly aiēst al sinners. Therfore
I tell you for certayne þ I wyll never forsake hym to suffre
all that I may suffre for his holy name. And I cōmytte me
hole to his his holy grace. Then they with grete wraþ put
this brennyng eote vpon his blesyd naked body / & thā he
kneled downe & called mekely vpon god & sayd. O almighty
god haue mercy vpon me / and forth with brast the bren
ynge harneys from his blesyd body and brenned all the
that so wraþfully wolde haue punyshed hym by the whyp
the myracle many men was conuerteh and was crystened
of the good saynt Erasmus. ¶ Tho appered to him again
the aun gell of god and sayd. O Erasmus goddes champp
on thou shalte go agayne in to campanyen / ad there shalte
thou suffre passyngre gretz payne. and god commaundeth
the to conuerte there moche people / and what thyuge thou
desyrest of hym to thy soule helth it shall be graunted. Thā
kneled saynt Erasmus mekely downe & sayd. O almighty
god fader of heuen thy wyll be fulfylled in me. Than wau
te he agayne gladly in to the londe of campanyen / & therre
preched he agayne the worde of god / and conuerted many
folke to the crysten faych. ¶ Then this Emperoure Mari
maynus dyde take this holy man / and let hym be brought
before hym / and he commaunded hym to ledde to the fal
se goddes and he sholde worshyp them. and whan this ho
ly man came before the false goddes than myghcē they noo
lenger stonde. But fell downe and brake all in ppeces / ad
consumed in to ashes or duste. And whan this came to the
knowlege of the emperoure / than was he sore agreued ad
than he ordyned a conne smyten full of yron nayles. And
dyde this holy man for to be put therin naked and closed ic
faſte to. And lecce it fall downe frome an hyghe hyll. And

than came the aungel of god and comforted this holy man
and holpe hym out of þonne and made hym hole and said
to hym. **D** Erasmus the very chosen seruaunte of god sea-
le not but goo and preche agayne / & take hede of no payne
whiche commaundemente he mckely abayed. **T**han the
Emperoure dyde take hym agayne and commaunded his
tethe to be pluked out of his heed with yron pyncers. And
after that they bounde hym to a pyler and scattred his skin-
ne with yron cardes / and than they rostyd hym vpon a gred
dyren / and as he laye he spake to the tourmencours metely
I lye here better than I am worthy. for I lye vpon a bed
de well strewed with swete reses / and I se the lyghthe euer-
lastynge the sone of god sytynge on the ryghte hode of his
fader. **C**ho spake the cruel Emperoure / a this is a very
tarver of tyme / and he mockech vs and oure goddes. And
he deserued to be brought to the moost cruell deth that we
can for hym ymagen. **T**han toke they this holy man and
dyde put hym in a depe pytte that was full of stenche. And
than this fell cruell Emperour toke counsayll what payne
þ they myght doo to this holy man to bryng hym to dethe.
Thenne tounde they in theyr myndes that they wold bryng
this holy man to dethe though they sholde martyre and
payne hym a pere longe / and soo they dyde before and after
euery sondaye with newe Payne the heuest and sharpest þ
they coude for hym ymagen. whan themproure had take
his shrewde counsayll. **T**han they tok this holy Erasmus
out of that stynkyng pytte / & mypte sharpe nayles of yron
in his fyngers and after they boord ouce his eyen at his heed
with theyr fyngers. **C**and after they layde this holy bys-
hop vpon they groûde naked and strectched hym with stro-
ge whyches bounden to horses abouce his blesyd nake ar-
mes and legges / so that all his veynes and senewes that

he had in his body braste. Than set they hym lyne in the felde
that the beestes sholde ete hym / than came a voyce from he
uen / and called. O Erasme lyfte vp thyn / eyen the crowne
of euerlastynge lyfe is redy for the. And with that he lyfte
vp his holy eyen in to heuen. And he saue the euerlastynge
Joye open and sayd. O lorde where hast thou be blesyd be
thy name / than was the holy man hole and sounde / and an
aungel brought hym a purple clothe frome heuen and com
maunded hym that he sholde go agayne and preche þ wor
de of god. whiche he dyde more strongely than he dyde be
fore. And whan the Emperoure with his false conseyl
understode this / he wared out of his wytte for angre / and
called with a lowde voyce lyke as he had ben madde & sayd
this is the deuyll / sholde we not bryng this captyfe to dethe
Than founde he a counseyl for to make a wyndace / and þ
was vpon the laste sondaye of the yere / and they layde this
holys martyrs vnder the wyndace al naked vpon a table / and
cut hym vpon his bely / and woude out his guttes or bowel
les of his blesyd body / but whan the cruell Emperoure saw
we that they coude not bryng this holy man to dethe wych
all these paynes and tourmentes / they chayned and bolted
hym bondes and fetes with grete yrons and in woodnesse
caste hym in a foule stynkyng pytte. And lette it be shytte
with grete yron boltes. Soo that he wolde never more se
hym. Than appared to hym þ aungel of god with grete cle
renesse & sayd. O Erasme stonde vp & forth with fell frome
hym all his yrons and bondes. And he was brought in to a
towne called Frenpana and there he reysed a chylde frome
dethe to lyfe / whiche was a gentylmans chylde / and the fa
der hyght Anastasius / by the whiche myracle many thousa
des of people were conuerted vnto the cristen fayth In the
whiche towne this holy man abode seuen dayes prechynge

the worde of god & strengthed the people in þe cristen byle-
ue & whan þe houre was come þis byshop and martyrs of
god sholde departe out of this woldē/þā waſ preferred a
lawde voyce parkely/comynge frome heuen sayenge. O
Erasm: my true seruaunt thou hast done me true seruice
Therefore come with me & goo and entre in to the blysse ad
Joyes of thy lordē/and I promyse the and all people that
thyneke vpon thy grete payne/and vpon thy holy name cal
len/and sue/and worshyp euery sondaye what so euer that
they aske of me in thy name for the wele of cheyr soules. I
shall graunte it. Now come my true and chosen eynde ad
be gladdē and comforted with my ascencyon I wyl that þ
aryse with me and come set vpon the ryght honde of my fa
der. ¶ Thenne was this holy man ryght glad Joyfull ad
he cast his eyen vwarde to heuen with lyftrynge vp his hō
des and there he sawe a clere shyninge crowne come frome
heuen vpon his blesyd heed. Tho gaue he louynge & than
kyng to almy ghyt god with bowynge his heed and knelyn
ge/and bothe his hondes vpwarde to heuen & mekele sayd
O lordē god in thyn hōdes yelde I my spypce. And this so
daye receyue my soule in to thy pease and rest & with saven
ge þ wordes he yelde vp his ghoost whiche was seen wþ
many mannes eyen shyninge clere than the sonne & howe
þ he was receyued of þ holy aügelles/it was ledde thorough
the heyght of heuen in to þ uppermoost place of heue/there
he stondech with god/with all the holy companye And is a
true helpe to all them that cal truely to saint Erasmus for
ghoostly helch whiche Joye & ghostely helche Let vs praye
that he for vs all of our lordē god may optayne. Amē

¶ Here endeth the lyfe of saynt Erasmus. Impynted ac
London in Powles chyrcharde at the sygne of che. iii. ky
ges by my Iulian Notary. a. M. LLLCLL and r. .



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